



STATE OF MICHIGAN

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## **\* \* 2004 UPDATE \* \* \***

### **SILVER LAKE STATE PARK ORV VOUCHER SYSTEM**

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) introduced a voucher system during the 2000 use season as a tool to manage the long lines of Off-Road Vehicle (ORV) users waiting to enter Silver Lake State Park on Saturdays, Sundays, and Holidays.

There are two types of vouchers: Dune Ready Vouchers and Parking Lot Vouchers. Dune Ready Vehicles are those that enter the Silver Lake State Park Off-Road Vehicle Area from public highways and go straight into the sand dune off-road area without the need for the parking lot / staging area. Parking Lot Vouchers are for those who require a staging or parking area for their tow vehicle and /or trailer. Both types of vouchers are free to park visitors and are distributed from the Off-Road Vehicle Voucher Center located at the corner of Fox and Ridge Roads, to the east of the ORV Area entrance gate. The purpose of the voucher is, simply, to "hold the ORV users place in line", while staggering arrival times to avoid excessive lines.

#### **The Most Frequently Asked Questions and Answers and Voucher Center Operational Changes for the 2004 Season**

##### **Q: When will the Voucher System go into effect this year?**

A: Vouchers will be handed out starting at 12 noon on Friday, May 14, 2004 and will be continuously distributed through the summer on weekends/holidays until Sunday, September 12<sup>th</sup>.

##### **Q: Where will I get my voucher?**

A: They are obtained at the Off-Road Vehicle Voucher Center on Fox Road located about ¼ mile east of the ORV Area entrance. You may also purchase your State Park and ORV permits at the same location, which will continue to help speed up entry into the ORV Area.

##### **Q: How soon on Friday can I get my voucher?**

A: The voucher distribution point on Fox Road will open at 12 noon on Fridays for Dune Ready Vouchers and at 9:00 p.m. for Parking Lot Vouchers. The Voucher Center will remain open until at least 11 p.m. and re-open at 7 a.m. on Saturday and Sunday and Holidays. **To reduce traffic congestion as much as possible, traffic should follow the ORV Voucher Center directional signage, posted throughout the community.**

**Q: What are the various voucher time periods.**

Parking Lot Vouchers will be for two periods: **7:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. or 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.** Stand-by Parking Lot Vouchers will be distributed once parking spaces for those periods are exhausted. There will be five Dune Ready Voucher periods: 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m., 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m., and 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Arrivals after 7:00 p.m. may not require a voucher.

**Q: What if I arrive after the time my voucher says, am I allowed to enter?**

A: No, late arrivals with Dune Ready Vouchers will need to secure a new voucher for a later time period during the day. Parking Lot Vouchers will guarantee entry for either the 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. **or** the 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. period, but not both. **If you arrive after your voucher time period, you will need to secure a Stand-by Voucher for later in the day.** No parking lot spaces will be guaranteed after 9:00 a.m.

**Q. What happens if I want to leave the park after entering?**

A: Once you have entered the park, you can stay as long as you like until the normal closing time. The vouchers only specify the arrival time. Dune Ready vehicles that leave the sand dunes and the State Park will be required to go to the end of the line when re-entering. Vehicles leaving the parking lot will not be guaranteed space when returning. Those attempting to “cut” in ahead of other visitors waiting in line, will be turned away. **Be sure your voucher slip is validated (HOLE-TYPE PUNCHED) when you arrive at the ORV Area Entrance Gate for the first time, on any particular day.**

**Q: How many Parking Lot and Dune Ready Vouchers will be given out daily?**

A: Over two thousand Dune Ready Vouchers are distributed each day or between 300 and 500 per two-hour time period. **This may change in the future because of the stricter enforcement and monitoring requirements associated with the sound level testing or other inspection requirements.** The number of available spaces in the lot controls the number of Parking Lot Vouchers. Inclement weather, no-shows, early or unplanned departures, space-sharing, and similar actions allow for additional room on occasion. Stand-by Vouchers are used for these unexpected events.

**Q: Can I obtain a voucher for someone else?**

A: Yes. **Two** Dune Ready or **one** Parking Lot Voucher can be obtained by an individual adult park visitor. These voucher slips will require the addition of the user's name and main vehicle license number, **in ink**, prior to validation. Due to the limited number of parking spaces, only **one** Parking Lot voucher will be given per customer. **Two** Dune Ready Vouchers can be obtained by one person at the Voucher Center Office, but you will need to know the names and license plate numbers and the intended time period wanted. **The voucher forms must be completed, in ink, prior to embossed validation at the time of application at the Voucher Center Office. Voucher slips will again be validated with a distinctive hole-type punch upon arrival at the ORV Area Entrance Gate. This hole-type punch will be required if re-entry is requested later during the day.** Commercial ORV ride vendors will need to register rental vehicles in advance.

**Q: Can I obtain vouchers for the whole weekend at once?**

A: You can get Dune Ready Vouchers for both Saturday and Sunday and/or the Holiday at the same time. They will become available at noon on the day prior to the voucher period. **In order to give people the opportunity for the limited parking spaces, Parking Lot Vouchers will be available at 9 p.m. the day before they are to be used.** Saturday Parking Lot Vouchers will be distributed at 9 p.m. each Friday; Sunday's will be distributed at 9 p.m. Saturday and Holiday periods will begin at 9 p.m. the day prior. **Once**

**the day's Parking Lot Vouchers are all given out, visitors may choose to be placed on the Stand-by List for the following day.**

**Q: When all of the vouchers have been given out for the day, is a user just out of luck?**

A: If space opens up in the parking lot, more vehicles will be allowed to enter. Vehicles requiring the use of the parking lot, that do not have a valid voucher for that day will not be allowed to wait in line outside the park, as in years past. The Voucher Center Parking Lot will be used for these Stand-by stacking or cueing line purposes during regular business hours. There will still be a wait with a Stand-by Voucher of course, since there is no guarantee when parking spaces may occur, but the visitor will be better able to make the best use of their time. Dune Ready Vehicles will need to check back during the day for the possibility of entry prior to 7 p.m.

**Q: Is the DNR increasing the number of parking spaces?**

A: No. Strict sand dune regulations will not allow the parking lot to be expanded "on-site" and the State of Michigan does not own adjacent land where additional spaces could be located. Parking Lot spaces are 12 feet x 60 feet. The use of awnings takes up space that others may be waiting for. Please make efficient use of the limited space. **No side awnings are allowed on voucher days.**

**Q: What about trailers with watercraft and ORVs that get stuck on the entrance ramp?**

A: Trailers are not allowed into the ORV Area beyond the Safety Check Station. Check with Park Rangers regarding use of trailers to remove disabled vehicles or emergency situations. Also, continuing this year, equipment over 60 feet in length will need to unhook trailers on busy days to use the parking lot.

**If you have specific questions or concerns or would like to volunteer to help, please contact personnel at Silver Lake State Park by telephoning 1-231-873-3083. Additional information can also be found at the Michigan Department of Natural Resources web site: [www.michigan.gov/dnr](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr)**

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**PLEASE DRIVE SAFELY**